

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 01142 101754Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /115 W
-----062077 110422Z /21
R 101051Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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DOE FOR CLINT BASTIN.

OES FOR DIXON HOYLE.

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENGR, IN
SUBJ: GE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR INCREASING SPENT FUEL STORAGE
SPACE AT TAPS

1. GE RERACKING TEAM CONSISTING OF ED GRIMM AND PAUL SUN, SPENT PERIOD OF MAY 5-10 IN BOMBAY AND TARAPUR TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY GE DESIGN FOR INTERIM RERACKING TO APA AND TO MAKE AN ON-SITE EXAMINATION OF PROBLEM OF REMOVAL OF OLD RACKS AND DEBRIS FROM STORAGE POOLS AT TAPS. CONGEN PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO TARAPUR ON MAY 6-7, AND PARTICIPATED IN TEAM'S INITIAL SESSION WITH SHAH, KOTHARE, ET AL IN BOMBAY ON MAY 8. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH CONGEN BOTH GRIMM AND SHAH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF TEAM'S MAY 8 MEETING WITH SHAH WERE:

(A) GE PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR INTERIM STAINLESS STEEL RACKS CONSISTING OF TWO 12 X 12S WERE REVIEWED AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT RACKS COULD BE FABRICATED IN INDIA. BECAUSE TIME
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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 01142 101754Z

FACTOR DOES NOT PERMIT MUCH LEEWAY, SHAH INSISTED ON DETAILED CRITIQUE OF HIS 6 X 6 DESIGN WHICH DOES NOT MEET NRC SPECIFICATIONS. HE SAID HIS POINT WAS TO HAVE AN OPTION IN CASE 12 X 12S CAN NOT BE FABRICATED IN INDIA IN TIME TO MEET FEBRUARY 1979 DEADLINE.

(B) THE COST OF 12 X 12S ESTIMATED AT UNDER \$200,000 EACH IF FABRICATED IN INDIA. COST WOULD BE ABOUT \$120,000 EACH

F.O.B. PLANT IF FABRICATED IN US; SHIPPING AND DUTY WOULD BRING THIS FIGURE UP NEAR \$200,000. ALL AGREED IT BEST TO TRY TO GET FABRICATION DONE LOCALLY.

(C) TWO 12 X 12S WILL TAKE CARE OF JUST ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF FUEL ASSEMBLIES THAT INDIA CAN FABRICATE FROM FUEL AWAITING ARRIVAL AND PROCESSING OF XSNM 1060.

(D) IT AGREED THAT GE WOULD SEND A TECHNICAN WITH CUTTING TOOLS IN SEPTEMBER TO REMOVE BOLTS HOLDING OLD RACKS IN POOLS.

(E) A MAJOR PROBLEM WILL BE AVAILABILITY OF CASKS TO REMOVE HIGHLY IRRADIATED MATERIALS NOW IN POOLS. GRIMM BELIEVES IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR APA TO CONTRACT WITH AN AMERICAN SUPPLIER WHO WOULD LICENSE A LOCAL FABRICATOR TO MAKE SPECIAL CASKS FOR THIS JOB. ON OTHER HAND, SHAH SAYS THAT LEVEL OF IRRADIATION OF MATERIALS TO BE REMOVED IS NOT AS HIGH AS GRIMM BELIEVES AND HE THINKS AVAILABLE CASKS MIGHT DO THE JOB. THIS MAY BE EXCESSIVELY OPTIMISTIC AS GRIMM THINKS A BOTTOM DISCHARGING CASK MAY BE ESSENTIAL FOR TASK AT HAND. GRIMM SUGGESTED A CONTRACT WITH MURPHY OF AVNEFCO (PHONETIC).

3. ON DEPARTURE, GRIMM TOLD CONGEN THAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR KOTHARE TO VISIT SAN JOSE IN EARLY JUNE FOR A BWR SEMINAR AT WHICH TIME GE WOULD REVIEW WITH HIM ITS FINAL DESIGN FOR THE INTERIM RACKS. KOTHARE WOULD THEN CARRY THESE DESIGNS BACK TO INDIA AND PUT OUT TENDERS WITH A DUE DATE FOR COMPLETION OF EARLY 1979.

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PAGE 03 BOMBAY 01142 101754Z

4. COMMENT: VISIT WENT OFF VERY WELL, INDEED. SHAH AND SETHNA SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH TEAM'S WORK AND ITS RESULTS. GRIMM WAS CAUTIOULSY OPTIMISTIC ON DEPARTURE THAT SPACE COULD BE CLEARED IN POOLS IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT NEW RACKS WOULD BE ON HAND FOR FEBRUARY 1979 REFUELING. GRIMM AND SUN HANDLED THEIR MISSION SUPERBLY AS IAEC WAS REALLY QUITE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE VARIOUS DEADLINES FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT.
COURTNEY

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